Muzaffarpur Extension have been spent on these two thermal projects.

(c) No proposals from Government of Bihar are pending for clearance in the Central Electricity Authority.

(d) Does not arise.

Fast Track Power Porject at Vizag

2816. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fast track power project being set up at Vizag with Japanese colloboration has been held up; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW), being set up by M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd., has obtained the techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority. The Power Purchase Agreement and the Coal Supply and Transportation Agreement for the project have yet to be finalised.

Techno-Economic Clearance of IPPs by CEA

2817. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to do away with the Techno-economic clearance by CEA, in case of Independent Power Producers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and in what manner Government propose to ensure the reasonableness of project cost, standardisation of equipment, norms of auxiliary consumption, etc.; and

(c) how Government propose to check formation of cartels among IPPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) All the power projects of private generating companies costing more than Rs. 100 crores (in case of projects awarded through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Letter of Intent (LOI), etc. route) and costing more than Rs. 1,000 crores (in case of projects awarded through competitive bidding) have to obtain techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority.

(c) To ensure that State Electricity Boards/Electricity Utilities would obtain competitive prices from the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), Government of India have made competitive bidding mandatory for awarding power projects to private sector after 18.2.1995.

Power Supply position in States

2818. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the power deficit/surplus position of each State;

(b) whether there is any scheme for a centrally-operated distribution system, involving all the States; if so, by when it would be completed;

(c) what schemes are there to avoid Transmission and Distribution losses; and

(d) what is the present Transmission and Distribution loss, both at the National and State levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) During the period April-February, 97 State-wise power supply position is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The responsibility for distribution of electricity vests with the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Deptts. In order to reduce the transmission and distribution losses, the Central Electricity Authority had issued